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A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.1
13 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision regarding the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties:

Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 3, which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, its own rules of procedure,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties,

Decides to adopt the Rules of Procedure attached to the present decision, with the exception of: paragraph 1 of Rule 6, paragraph 1 of Rule 22, Rule 31 and paragraph 1 of Rule 47.

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Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Committee on Science and Technology: reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and on establishment of research priorities

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee to submit to the interim secretariat by 17 March 1997 suggestions on the modalities and timing of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on:

(i) Inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices; and

(ii) Research priorities;

2. Requests the interim secretariat, drawing on the submissions received pursuant to the previous paragraph, to submit an expanded report on the subject, including modalities and timing, for consideration by the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
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CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Noting with appreciation the report in document A/AC.241/67 regarding work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee and competent organizations to make written submissions, to be received by the interim secretariat before 17 March 1997, regarding A/AC.241/67;

2. Requests the interim secretariat to update its work on identifying other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology, and, in that connection, to:

(i) Establish an informal open-ended consultative process to assist in this work;

(ii) Identify as well, in addition to the categories already identified, regional and subregional organizations with bodies performing work similar to that envisaged to be undertaken by the Committee on Science and Technology;

(iii) Take account of comments on this subject, including those relating to the transfer of technology, in Working Group II during the tenth session of the Committee, as well as the written submissions referred to in subparagraph (i);

3. Further requests the interim secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties on the work undertaken in accordance with paragraph 2.

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FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Noting with appreciation the report in document A/AC.241/INF.4 regarding the progress done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee and competent organizations to make written submissions, to be received by the interim secretariat by 17 March 1997, regarding A/AC.241/INF.4, as well as priorities in future work on benchmarks and indicators;

2. Requests the interim secretariat to continue its work on benchmarks and indicators and, in that connection, to:

(i) Continue the informal open-ended consultative process it established pursuant to decision 9/12;

(ii) Put particular emphasis on indication indicators;

(iii) Further expand the work to encompass the Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions; and

(iv) Take account of comments on this subject in Working Group II during the tenth session of the Committee, as well as the written submissions referred to in operative paragraph (i) of paragraph 2;

3. Further requests the interim secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties on the work undertaken in accordance with subparagraph (b).

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Noting with appreciation the report in document A/AC.241/INF.4 regarding the progress done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention and the valuable assistance provided by competent organizations already working on this topic,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee and competent organizations to make written submissions, to be received by the interim secretariat by 17 March 1997, regarding A/AC.241/INF.4, as well as priorities in future work on benchmarks and indicators;

2. Requests the interim secretariat to continue its work on benchmarks and indicators and, in that connection, to:

(i) Continue the informal open-ended consultative process it established pursuant to decision 9/12, with the participation of any interested member of the Committee, from any regional and/or subregional groups, and competent governmental and non-governmental organizations;

(ii) Within this consultative process, put particular emphasis on the further elaboration of implementation indicators and the development of a methodology for determining impact indicators;

(iii) Further expand the work to encompass the Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions; and

(iv) Take account of comments on this subject in Working Group II during the tenth session of the Committee, as well as the written submissions referred to in operative paragraph 1;

3. Further requests the interim secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties on the work undertaken in accordance with paragraph 2.

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DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Committee on Science and Technology: work to be undertaken on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

Requests the interim secretariat to solicit proposals, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex I to this decision, from the organizations listed in annex II to undertake the survey and evaluation referred to in article 25 of the Convention of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network that shall support the implementation of the Convention;

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision regarding the Committee on Science and Technology:

Committee on Science and Technology: work to be undertaken on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Approves the terms of reference contained in annex I, for work to be undertaken on the survey and evaluation referred to in article 25 of the Convention of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network that shall support the implementation of the Convention,

Further approves the request of the Committee on Science and Technology to appoint an ad hoc panel to review the draft contractor's report in the inter-sessional period, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

ANNEX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE ON WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) will need to be broken into three phases (document A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

(a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;

(b) A pilot, in-depth survey and evaluation of potential units in a particular region and subregion; and

(c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities. Pursuant to the programme of work outlined, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee seeks proposals for services from a competent contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of "potential units, particularly existing networks" and to propose a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection

and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distributions;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Recommend:

(i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;

(ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the CST to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;

(iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies, and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting implementation of the Convention.

3. Solicitation of bids from organizations

Immediately following the tenth session of the Committee, the interim secretariat shall invite organizations listed in annex II to submit proposals to carry out phase 1 activities. The proposals, which can come either from the organizations individually, or from two or more such organizations jointly, must be received by the interim secretariat by 15 May 1997. Each proposal must be accompanied by an executive summary not exceeding six pages in length. The interim secretariat shall arrange for the circulation of the executive summaries of these proposals prior to the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Copies of the complete proposals will be available to the members of the Committee on Science and Technology on request.

4. Timing of implementation of the contract

(a) Prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties and the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology, the interim secretariat will prepare a draft contract for consideration by the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology. After any essential changes, the

Committee shall propose that the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology recommend that the first session of the Conference of the Parties approve the issuance of the contract and its administration by the Secretariat.

(b) Within one month after the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Secretariat will formalize and sign a contract with the selected contractor.

(c) During the second through seventh months after the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology, the contractor will complete the tasks enumerated in subparagraphs 2 (a) to (g) and submit a draft final report to the Secretariat. This report will be accompanied by an executive summary not exceeding 12 pages in length.

(d) During the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Committee recommends that the Committee on Science and Technology request approval of the Conference of the Parties to appoint an ad hoc panel of five experts who will review the contractor's draft report. This advisory panel will form for a fixed period of up to two weeks (during the eighth month after the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology) during which time the panel will review the contractor's report and executive summary and make appropriate recommendations for editorial and other changes to ensure fulfilment of the terms of the contract.

(e) In light of the panel's review, the contractor will make any necessary revisions to the draft report and submit its revised version to the Secretariat at least three months prior to the start of the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

(f) The Permanent Secretariat will arrange for the translation of the executive summary of the report into English and/or French and circulate copies to members of the Committee on Science and Technology. Copies of the complete report submitted by the contractor will be available to members of the Committee on Science and Technology on request.

4. Communication between contractor and client

If in the course of implementing the contract the contractor considers it would be appropriate to clarify objectives or to consult on other technical matters not foreseen in the contract, the contractor will correspond with the Secretariat, which will in turn consult as necessary with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology.

ANNEX II

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Damascus

Desert Research Centre, Cairo

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Paris

International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa

International Soil Science Society, Vienna

United Nations Development Programme, New York

United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi

University of Arizona, Tucson

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FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
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THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Committee on Science and Technology: preparatory measures to put in hand work on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

Requests the interim secretariat to solicit proposals, in accordance with the draft terms of reference contained in annex I to this decision, from the indicative list of competent organizations in annex II to undertake the survey and evaluation referred to in article 25 of the Convention of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network that shall support the implementation of the Convention,

Further requests the interim secretariat to arrange for the circulation of the executive summaries of the proposals referred to in paragraph 3 of the draft terms of reference prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recommends that the Committee on Science and Technology:

(a) Shall, at its first session, review the draft terms of reference and make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for their adoption, and

(b) Shall, having duly considered these proposals, recommend the most suitable contractor for consideration and approval by the Conference of the Parties at its first session.

ANNEX I

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, it is proposed that the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) will need to be broken into three phases (document A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

(a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;

(b) A pilot, in-depth survey and evaluation of potential units in a particular region and subregion; and

(c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities. Pursuant to the proposed programme of work outlined above, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee seeks proposals for services from a competent contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of "potential units, particularly existing networks" and to suggest a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks expected to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distributions;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Suggest:

(i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;

(ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the CST to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;

(iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies, and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting implementation of the Convention.

3. Solicitation of bids from organizations

Immediately following the tenth session of the Committee, the interim secretariat shall invite competent organizations such as those indicated in annex II to submit proposals to carry out phase 1 activities. The proposals, which can come either from an organization individually, or from two or more organizations jointly, must be received by the interim secretariat by 15 May 1997. Each proposal must be accompanied by an executive summary not exceeding six pages in length. Copies of the complete proposals will be available to the members of the Committee on Science and Technology on request.

4. Draft contract

The interim secretariat will prepare a draft contract for consideration and approval by the first session of the Conference of the Parties, upon recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology.

ANNEX II

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Damascus

China National Center for Research and Development and Desertification Control, Beijing

Desert Research Centre, Cairo

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Paris

International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa

International Soil Science Society, Vienna

Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Ouagadougou

Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Paris

United Nations Development Programme, New York

United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi

University of Arizona, Tucson

World Meteorological Organization, Geneva

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Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Organization of the Work Committee on Science and Technology

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

Recalling the provisions of article 24, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention relating to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields, and to the qualifications of such experts of ad hoc panels which may be appointed by the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling further the provisions of the recommendation of the Committee to the Conference of the Parties, contained in decision 9/10, further elaborating on the qualifications of such experts,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee to contribute comments and views on subjects to be discussed at the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology, to be received by the interim secretariat before 17 March 1997;

2. Requests the interim secretariat, bearing in mind the comments made during the tenth session on document A/AC.241/66 and drawing on the comments

received pursuant to paragraph 1, to prepare an annotated agenda for the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

3. Invites Parties to submit in writing, through diplomatic channels, nominations of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields for the roster referred to in paragraph 2 of article 24 of the Convention, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and a broad and equitable geographic distribution;

4. Requests the interim secretariat to maintain the roster on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, and to submit a draft roster for approval by the first session of the Conference of the Parties after review by the Committee on Science and Technology.